

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) issued the following statement in commemoration of the 25th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:

“We are all forever indebted to Dr. King for fighting to change America’s legacy from racism and hatred to a goal of acceptance and equality. Dr. King led a movement which sparked the conscience of America and turned the race dialogue into ground-breaking legislation that would attack years of slavery and segregation. From the march in Selma came the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Down the path to Montgomery came the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And the rallies in Chicago spurred the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the last of the historic civil rights legislation that sprang from Dr. King.

“Dr. King once said ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent.’

“While we have made momentous progress in the fight against discrimination and inequity, the long road to success still stretches before us. Disparities in employment, health, and wealth continue to persist among communities of color in the United States and abroad, and this will require inclusive and sustainable interventions.

“Dr. King was a pivotal character of the civil rights era, and his legacy to strive for the equality and well-being of all people continues to live on. I hearten all Americans to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as not only a day off from work or school, but a day to consider what more we can be doing to fulfill Dr. King's dream and foster progress in our local and international community.”

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